



Tempe Public Art



Joe Tyler

Come Together, 1995

Welded steel and
copper powder coat

Location:

Tempe High School
1730 S. Mill Avenue

Artist Website:

www.artistic-vision.com

Photo: Craig Smith

Description: This transit shelter is a surrealistic tree sculpture. The four steel trees support and camouflage an 8 x 10-foot galvanized solid steel canopy, which provides shade and protection from rain and sun. The welded steel limbs and copper powder-coated leaves extend beyond the canopy creating filtered shade to form a larger canopy. The roots around the base of each tree provide seating by supporting wire mesh seats. Tempe's goal with its Artist Designed Transit Shelters is to encourage people to use the public transportation by making it attractive, innovative and functional. Tyler's goal was to create more than a pleasing transit shelter, but to also give the neighborhood and the city a sculpture they would take pride in. This sculpture was planned with shade as the integral part of the shelter. The title, "Come Together," was chosen because the artist thought was that this shelter would serve as a place where students from high schools, residents from the surrounding neighborhood and other transit customers would come together, as do the surreal limbs and foliage in forming the sculpted canopy for the shelter.

Artist biography: Joe Tyler received his bachelor's degree in Horticulture from Arizona State University, followed by his Masters of Environmental Horticulture in 1972. After years of owning a nursery and serving as the Founding Director of the Arboretum at ASU, Tyler's artistic talents revealed a new profession. Since the 1990s, he has been creating primarily large-scale sculptures of welded steel, often incorporating materials including wood, masonry, and glass. Much of Tyler's work has a strong botanical influence due to his background in, and passion for horticulture and the Sonoran Desert. Because he strives to incorporate a site's environment, culture and history, his artwork often looks as though it has been in place for a long time. Tyler's residential, public, and art in private development works can be seen in cities across the Southwest, as well as Germany and Japan.

Funding: The project was funded through City of Tempe Municipal Arts Fund with additional funding from the Arizona Commission on the Arts and the Federal Transit Administration.